



APR 16 2007

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Arizona House of Representatives
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

April 12, 2007

Superintendent Tom Horne
Arizona State Board of Education
1535 West Jefferson, Bin 11
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Superintendent Horne,

We are writing to inform you of a very serious matter that requires your immediate attention. Children in a number of Arizona school districts have faced unfair disciplinary actions because of their ethnicity. This problem has affected several African-American and Latino students in Legislative District 16 this year. We are aware of reports of similar cases throughout Arizona. These students have faced stiffer penalties than other students in the school system. We are greatly concerned because this discrimination has negatively affected the students' grades, their ability to participate in extracurricular activities and, in some instances, their ability to gain admission to Arizona colleges and universities.

In your role as the policy arm for the state, We would request the creation of a special task force to look into complaints of unfairness and recommend procedures for appealing a disciplinary decision to ensure that all students are treated fairly no matter their ethnic background. This is a very urgent issue. We appreciate your assistance and attention in the matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rep. Cloves Campbell
District 16

Rep. Ed. Ableser
District 17

Rep. Linda Lopez
District 29

Rep. Tom Prezelski
District 29

Rep. Pete Rios
District 23

Rep. Kyrsten Sinema
District 15

Rep. Chad Campbell
District 14

Rep. David Lujan
District 15

Rep. Lynne Pancrazi
District 24

Rep. Albert Tom
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Rep. Olivia Cajero Bedford
District 27

Lena S. Saradnik
District 26

Rep. Jack A. Brown
District 5

Rep. Theresa Ulmer
District 24

Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick
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Rep. Phil Lopes
District 27